

THE GAMING STONES OF AREDIOU-VOUPPES:

EXPLORING THE PAST AND CREATING IDENTITY THROUGH
MATERIAL REMAINS.

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Abstract

This dissertation forms a study on material culture from the background of social archaeology, which will focus on the Cypriot site of *Arediou-Vouppes*, a Late Bronze Age production settlement at the foothills of the Troodos Massif. Primary attention will be given to the gaming stones discovered on the site during several seasons of survey and excavation, carried out under the direction of Dr. Louise Steel. I hope to demonstrate how such an aspect of material culture can be used to assist in an understanding of a site's social make up and identity. The gaming stones context and possible function in *Arediou* will be examined and compared to the use of gaming stones in other Bronze Age Cypriot sites. My aim is to people the past and in so doing challenge the predominantly anonymous narratives of the discipline of archaeology. Ultimately my intention is to remove the so-called 'faceless blobs' of prehistory (Tringham 1991: 94), and replace them with socially active human beings, in so doing giving rightful consideration to the highly complex social dimensions of the site and its material remains.

DECLARATION

This work has not previously been accepted in substance for any degree and is not being concurrently submitted in candidature for any degree.

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STATEMENT 1

This work is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. Where correction services have been used, the extent and nature of the correction is clearly marked in a footnote(s).

Other sources are acknowledged by explicit referencing under the Harvard System. A bibliography is appended.

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List of Abbreviations

Time Periods:

BA	Bronze Age
EBA	Early Bronze Age
MBA	Middle Bronze Age
LBA	Late Bronze Age

IA	Iron Age
EIA	Early Iron Age
MIA	Middle Iron Age
LIA	Late Iron Age

EC	Early Cypriot
MC	Middle Cypriot
LC	Late Cypriot

LM	Late Minoan
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LH	Late Helladic
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Organisations:

SCSP	Sydney Cyprus Survey Project
CAARI	Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute
KSU	Kent State University

Orientations:

SW	South West
NW	North West

Chronological Chart

Pre Neolithic		<i>ca.</i> 10 000 BC
Neolithic		8200 – 3900 BC
Chalcolithic		3900 – 2500 BC
Early Cypriote I	(Early Bronze Age I)	2500 – 2075 BC
Early Cypriote II	(Early Bronze Age II)	2075 – 2000 BC
Early Cypriote III	(Early Bronze Age III)	2000 – 1900 BC
Middle Cypriote I	(Middle Bronze Age I)	1900 – 1800 BC
Middle Cypriote II	(Middle Bronze Age II)	1800 – 1725 BC
Middle Cypriote III	(Middle Bronze Age III)	1725 – 1600 BC
Late Cypriote I	(Late Bronze Age I)	1600 – 1450 BC
Late Cypriote II	(Late Bronze Age II)	1450 – 1200 BC
Late Cypriote III	(Late Bronze Age III)	1200 – 1050 BC
Cypro-Geometric I		1050 – 950 BC
Cypro-Geometric II		950 – 900 BC
Cypro-Geometric III		900 – 750 BC
Cypro-Archaic I		750 – 600 BC
Cypro-Archaic II		600 – 480 BC
Cypro-Classical I		480 – 400 BC
Cypro-Classical II		400 – 310 BC
Hellenistic I		310 – 150 BC
Hellenistic II		150 – 30 BC
Roman Period		30 BC – 330 AD

(Taken from Karageorghis 2006)